IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (currently amended) A universal joint comprising:

(a) first and second rings;

(b) first and second yokes disposed within the first and second rings, respectively;

(c) first and second shafts;

(d) first pin means pivotally interconnecting the first yoke and the first ring;

(e) second pin means pivotally interconnecting the first shaft and the first ring;

(f) third pin means pivotally interconnecting the second yoke and the second ring;

(g) fourth pin means interconnecting the second shaft and the second ring;

(h) a coupling means interconnecting the first yoke and the second yoke;

(i) a plurality of bearing means receiving the pin means; and

(j) centering means interconnecting the first shaft and the second shaft, the centering means comprising a first cam rod rotatably coupled to a second cam rod, wherein:

(i) the first cam rod includes a first section having a first axis of rotation and a second section, offset from the first section, having a second axis of rotation; and

(ii) the second cam rod includes a first section having a first axis of rotation and a second section, offset from the first section, having a second axis of rotation.

2. (previously amended) The universal joint of claim 1, wherein there are bearing means in each ring, the bearing means in the first ring receiving the first and second pin means, and the bearing means in the second ring receiving the third and fourth pin means.

3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) The universal joint of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein:

the first and second pin means have pivot centers and the third and fourth pin means have pivot centers; and

the axes of rotation of the first cam rod intersect the pivot centers of the first and second pin means and the axes of rotation of the second cam rod intersect the pivot centers of the third and fourth pin means.

5. (original) The universal joint of claim 1, wherein the first and second pin means have pivot centers and the third and fourth pin means have pivot centers, the first cam rod has axes of rotation and the second cam rod has axes of rotation, and the axes of rotation of the first cam rod

intersect the pivot centers of the first and second pin means and the axes of rotation of the second cam rod intersect the pivot centers of the third and fourth pin means.

6. (original) The universal joint of claim 1, further comprising a cam tube which receives and supports the cam rods, wherein both cam rods are rotatably supported at equal angles within the cam tube.

7. (currently amended) A universal joint comprising:

(a) first and second shafts;

(b) coupling means for transmitting torque from the first shaft to the second shaft;

(c) centering means interconnecting the first shaft and the second shaft for causing the second shaft to move at the same angle relative to the coupling means as does the first shaft, the centering means comprising a first cam rod and a second cam rod rotatably coupled to the first cam rod, wherein:

(i) each cam rod includes a first straight section and a second straight section,

(ii) each straight section has a longitudinal axis,

(iii) the longitudinal axes of the two straight sections form an angle, and

(iv) the angle of the first cam rod is equal to the angle of the second cam rod.

8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) The universal joint of claim ~~8~~ 7, further comprising a cam tube, and wherein both cam rods are rotatably supported at equal angles within the cam tube.

10. (original) The universal joint of claim 9, wherein the cam tube includes bores which support the cam rods at equal angles to each other, and which are the same angle as the cam rods, such that when rotating the coupled cam rods within the cam tube, the axes of the second straight sections of the cam rods can align themselves to one another or can be misaligned with respect to one another up to an angle equal to four times the angle of the cam rod.

11. (original) The universal joint of claim 1, wherein: the first cam rod is rotatably coupled to the second cam rod by a pin and cube universal joint which is supported within a cam tube.

12. (currently amended) A universal joint comprising:

(a) first and second shafts;

(b) coupling means for transmitting torque from the first shaft to the second shaft;

(c) centering means interconnecting the first shaft and the second shaft for causing the second

shaft to move at the same angle relative to the coupling means as does the first shaft, the centering means comprising a first cam rod and second cam rod longitudinally aligned at equal angles within a cam tube, wherein:

(i) each cam rod includes a first straight section and a second straight section,

(ii) each straight section has a longitudinal axis,

(iii) the longitudinal axes of the two straight sections form an angle, and

(iv) the angle of the first cam rod is equal to the angle of the second cam rod.

13. (currently amended) A universal joint comprising:

(a) first and second shafts;

(b) coupling means for transmitting torque from the first shaft to the second shaft;

(c) centering means interconnecting the first shaft and the second shaft for causing the second shaft to move at the same angle relative to the coupling means as does the first shaft, the centering means comprising a first cam rod and a second cam rod longitudinally aligned with and rotatably connected to the first cam rod by a plurality of bent rods, wherein:

(i) each cam rod includes a first straight section and a second straight section,

(ii) each straight section has a longitudinal axis,

(iii) the longitudinal axes of the two straight sections form an angle, and

(iv) the angle of the first cam rod is equal to the angle of the second cam rod..

14. (currently amended) The universal joint of claim 13, wherein the first cam rod and the second cam rod are connected at equal angles, the coupling means has an axis of rotation, there is a bisecting plane of the universal joint which is ~~perpendicual~~ perpendicular to the axis of rotation of the coupling means, and the axes of rotation of the first cam rod, bent rods and second cam rod intersect at the pivot points of the first and second shafts and the bisecting plane of the universal joint.

15. (original) The universal joint of claim 13, further comprising a cam tube rotatably supporting the first cam rod and the second cam rod, and whereby the first cam rod, the second cam rod, and the cam tube rotatably support and interconnect the first shaft and the second shaft for causing the second shaft to move at the same angle relative the coupling means as does the first shaft.

16. (currently amended) A universal connector comprising:

(a) a first cam rod;

(b) a second cam rod;

(c) a cam tube, wherein the first cam rod is rotatably coupled to the second cam rod, and wherein both cam rods are rotatably supported at equal angles within the cam tube;

(d) connection means for connecting the first cam rod to a first member and for connecting the second cam rod to a second member, wherein:

(i) each cam rod includes a first straight section and a second straight section,

(ii) each straight section has a longitudinal axis,

(iii) the longitudinal axes of the two straight sections form an angle, and

(iv) the angle of the first cam rod is equal to the angle of the second cam rod.

17. (original) The connector of claim 16, wherein the first and second members are shafts.

18. (original) The connector of claim 16, wherein the first and second members are tubes.

19. (original) The connector of claim 16, wherein the first and second members are construction members.

20. (original) A universal joint comprising:

(a) first and second rings, each ring comprising a plurality of ring segments which are fitted together end-to-end in a manner to mechanically retain the ring segments together;

(b) first and second yokes disposed within the first and second rings, respectively;

(c) first and second shafts;

(d) first pin means pivotally interconnecting the first yoke and the first ring;

(e) second pin means pivotally interconnecting the first shaft and the first ring;

(f) third pin means pivotally interconnecting the second yoke and the second ring;

(g) fourth pin means interconnecting the second shaft and the second ring;

(h) a coupling means interconnecting the first yoke and the second yoke;

(I) a plurality of bearing means receiving the pin means.

21. (original) The universal joint of claim 20, wherein the ring segments are quadrants.

22. (original) The universal joint of claim 21, wherein the quadrants are substantially identical to one another.

23. (previously amended) The universal joint of claim 20, further comprising centering means interconnecting the first shaft and the second shaft, the centering means comprising a first cam rod and a second cam rod rotatably coupled to the first cam rod.

24. (previously amended) The universal joint of claim 23, wherein the second cam rod is longitudinally aligned with and rotatably connected to the first cam rod by a plurality of bent rods.

25. (currently amended) A centering means for a universal joint comprising first and second shafts and a coupling means for transmitting torque from the first shaft to the second shaft,

the centering means including means for interconnecting the first shaft and the second shaft for causing the second shaft to move at the same angle relative to the coupling means as does the first shaft, and

the centering means comprising a first cam rod and a second cam rod rotatably coupled to the first cam rod, wherein:

(i) each cam rod includes a first straight section and a second straight section,

(ii) each straight section has a longitudinal axis,

(iii) the longitudinal axes of the two straight sections form an angle, and

(iv) the angle of the first cam rod is equal to the angle of the second cam rod.

26. (cancelled)

27. (currently amended) The centering means of claim ~~26~~ 25, further comprising a cam tube, and wherein both cam rods are rotatably supported at equal angles within the cam tube.

28. (previously amended) The centering means of claim 27, wherein the cam tube includes bores which support the cam rods at equal angles to each other, and which are the same angle as the cam rods, such that when rotating the coupled cam rods within the cam tube, the axes of the second straight sections of the cam rods can align themselves to one another or can be misaligned with respect to one another up to an angle equal to four times the angle of the cam rod.

Claims 29-50 were previously cancelled.

51. (currently amended) The universal joint of claim 1, wherein:

~~the first cam rod includes a first section having a first axis of rotation and a second section having a second axis of rotation;~~

~~the second cam rod includes a first section having a first axis of rotation and a second section having a second axis of rotation;~~

the first and second pin means have pivot centers and the third and fourth pin means have

pivot centers;

the axes of rotation of the first cam rod intersect one another at the pivot centers of the first and second pin means and the axes of rotation of the second cam rod intersect one another at the pivot centers of the third and fourth pin means;

the coupling means has a longitudinal axis;

the longitudinal axis of the coupling means intersects the axes of rotation of the first cam rod where ~~they~~ the axes of rotation of the first cam rod intersect one another; and

the longitudinal axis of the coupling means intersects the axes of rotation of the second cam rod where ~~they~~ the axes of rotation of the second cam rod intersect one another.

52. (currently amended) The universal joint of claim 7, wherein:

~~each cam rod includes a first section and a second section;~~

each section has an axis of rotation;

the axes of rotation of the two sections in each cam rod intersect one another;

the coupling means has a longitudinal axis;

the longitudinal axis of the coupling means intersects the axes of rotation of the first cam rod where ~~they~~ the axes of rotation of the first cam rod intersect one another; and

the longitudinal axis of the coupling means intersects the axes of rotation of the second cam rod where ~~they~~ the axes of rotation of the second cam rod intersect one another.

53. (currently amended) The universal joint of claim 12, wherein:

the ~~first cam rod includes a~~ first section of the first cam rod has ~~having~~ a first axis of rotation and ~~a~~ the second section of the first cam rod has ~~having~~ a second axis of rotation;

the ~~second cam rod includes a~~ first section of the second cam rod has ~~having~~ a first axis of rotation and ~~a~~ the second section of the second cam rod has ~~having~~ a second axis of rotation;

the axes of rotation of the first cam rod intersect one another;

the axes of rotation of the second cam rod intersect one another;

the coupling means has a longitudinal axis;

the longitudinal axis of the coupling means intersects the axes of rotation of the first cam rod where ~~they~~ the axes of rotation of the first cam rod intersect one another; and

the longitudinal axis of the coupling means intersects the axes of rotation of the second cam rod where ~~they~~ the axes of rotation of the second cam rod intersect one another.

54. (currently amended) The universal joint of claim 13, wherein:

the first cam rod includes a first section having a first axis of rotation and a second section having a second axis of rotation;

the second cam rod includes a first section having a first axis of rotation and a second section having a second axis of rotation;

the axes of rotation of the first cam rod intersect one another;

the axes of rotation of the second cam rod intersect one another;

the coupling means has a longitudinal axis;

the longitudinal axis of the coupling means intersects the axes of rotation of the first cam rod where ~~they~~ the axes of rotation of the first cam rod intersect one another; and

the longitudinal axis of the coupling means intersects the axes of rotation of the second cam rod where ~~they~~ the axes of rotation of the second cam rod intersect one another.

55. (currently amended) The universal joint of claim 16, wherein:

~~the first cam rod includes a first section having a first axis of rotation and a second section having a second axis of rotation;~~

~~the second cam rod includes a first section having a first axis of rotation and a second section having a second axis of rotation;~~

each section has an axis of rotation;

the axes of rotation of the first cam rod intersect one another;

the axes of rotation of the second cam rod intersect one another;

the coupling means has a longitudinal axis;

the longitudinal axis of the coupling means intersects the axes of rotation of the first cam rod where ~~they~~ the axes of rotation of the first cam rod intersect one another; and

the longitudinal axis of the coupling means intersects the axes of rotation of the second cam rod where ~~they~~ the axes of rotation of the second cam rod intersect one another.

56. (currently amended) The universal joint of claim 23, wherein:

the first cam rod includes a first section having a first axis of rotation and a second section, having a second axis of rotation;

the second cam rod includes a first section having a first axis of rotation and a second section having a second axis of rotation;

the first and second pin means have pivot centers and the third and fourth pin means have pivot centers;

the axes of rotation of the first cam rod intersect one another at the pivot centers of the first and second pin means and the axes of rotation of the second cam rod intersect one another at the pivot centers of the third and fourth pin means.

the coupling means has a longitudinal axis;

the longitudinal axis of the coupling means intersects the axes of rotation of the first cam rod where ~~they~~ the axes of rotation of the first cam rod intersect one another; and

the longitudinal axis of the coupling means intersects the axes of rotation of the second cam rod where ~~they~~ the axes of rotation of the second cam rod intersect one another.

57. (currently amended) The universal joint of claim 25, wherein:

~~each cam rod includes a first section and a second section;~~

each section has an axis of rotation;

the axes of rotation of the two sections in each cam rod intersect one another;

the coupling means has a longitudinal axis;

the longitudinal axis of the coupling means intersects the axes of rotation of the first cam rod where ~~they~~ the axes of rotation of the first cam rod intersect one another; and

the longitudinal axis of the coupling means intersects the axes of rotation of the second cam rod where ~~they~~ the axes of rotation of the second cam rod intersect one another.